

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T STATE 248071

FOLLOWING REPEAT KABUL 8539 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEHRAN

18 DEC

QUOTE

S E C R E T KABUL 8539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, AF

SUBJECT: IRAN-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 8777

1. WE WILL BE COMMENTING FURTHER IN NEAR FUTURE ON OUR IMPRESSIONS OF OVERALL STATE IRAN-AFGHAN RELATIONS. NEWS IN REFTEL THAT NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR GETTING OFF TO GOOD START IS OF COURSE WELCOME. AMBIGUITY OF IRANIAN VIEW DESCRIBED IN REFTEL NOT SURPRISING HOWEVER IN VIEW OF EVENTS OF RECENT MONTHS.

2. I HAD OPPORTUNITY TALK INFORMALLY WITH DEPFONMIN WAHID ABDULLAH AT DINNER DECEMBER 15 ABOUT THIS SUBJECT. HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN GOA'S DESIRE IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH TEHRAN, AND MADE IMPLIED PREDICTION THAT HELMAND WATERS AGREEMENT WOULD CERTAINLY BE
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RATIFIED EVENTUALLY HERE. HE SAID THAT THERE REMAINS ONLY ONE

SMALL ISSUE TO SETTLE BEFORE TREATY IS ACCEPTABLE AND THAT THIS
COULD BE SOLVED IN A FEW
MINUTES WHEN TIME WAS RIPE. PROBLEM
IS THAT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE NOT RIPE AT PRESENT FOR AT LEAST
TWO REASONS: CERTAIN STRONG SUPPORTERS OF CURRENT REGIME HAVE
PUBLICLY ATTACKED TREATY IN PAST AS "SELL OUT" AND THEIR VIEWS
MUST BE SOFTENED BY PASAGE OF TIME AND EVENTS. MOREOVER,
ABDULLAH CONFIRMED BY IMPLICATION POINT WE HAVE HEARD PREVIOUSLY,
NAMELY THAT SO LONG AS SHAFIQ TRIAL NOT COMPLETE OR AT LEAST HIS
FATE NOT FINALLY DETERMINED, IRAN ISSUE REMAINS PARTICULARLY
DELICATE. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, ONE MAJOR CHARGE
AGAINST SHAFIQ IN TRIAL WAS REPORTEDLY HIS PARTICIPATION IN
BRIBERY OF DEPUTIES AND RECEIPT OF IRANIAN FUNDS HIMSELF TO
PUSH TREATY THROUGH.

3. ABDULLAH MADE SPECIAL POINT OF SAYING "HE HOPED IRAN WOULD NOT
RAISE TREATY ISSUE WITH AFGHANS FOR TIME BEING." BUT ALL
INDICATIONS FROM HIM AND OTHERS ARE THAT DAOUD WANTS TO GO
AHEAD WITH RATIFICATION SOMETIME IN COMING MONTHS.

4. ABDULLAH ALSO MADE POINT THAT SHAH SHOULD REALIZE THAT DAOUD
IS, FROM IRAN'S AS WELL AS AFGHANISTAN'S STANDPOINT, BEST
POSSIBLE LEADER FOR AFGHANISTAN AT PRESENT TIME. HE WILL NO
DOUBT PLAY THAT THEME ALSO IN TEHRAN.

5. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS MESSAGE PLUS REFTEL TO ISLAMABAD.
ELIOT UNQUOTE RUSH

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